

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Hatano et al. (EP, 0-935-123).

Claims 2-5, 7, and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatano et al., in further view of Halstead-Nussloch et al. (US, 5,337,347).

Claims 8 -11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatano et al., in further view of well-known art.

Summary of Response to the Office Action

Applicant amends claims 1-10 to further define the invention and adds new claim 14. Accordingly, claims 1-14 are presently pending for consideration.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Hatano et al.; claims 2-5, 7, and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatano et al., in further view of Halstead-Nussloch et al.; and claims 8 -11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatano et al., in further view of well-known art.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1, as amended recites a facility retrieval apparatus including in part, “input means for receiving and taking in said area names, said classified names and said facility names” and “identifying means for identifying, by referring said area name dictionary and said classified name dictionary, whether at least one name received is in an area name or a classified name” and “extracting means for extracting, from said facility name dictionary, a facility name satisfying narrow-down condition designated by said at least one name which is identified by

said identifying means as said area name or said classified name.” Similarly, independent claim 10, as amended, recites “receiving and taking in said area names, said classified names and said facility names by input means” and “identifying in identifying means, by referring said area name dictionary and said classified name dictionary, whether at least one name received is in an area name or a classified name” and “extracting in extracting means from said facility name dictionary, a facility name satisfying narrow-down condition designated by said at least one name which is identified by said identifying means as said area names or said classified names.” In addition, independent claim 12 recites, a facility retrieval method including in part, “acquiring the predetermined number of facility names from area names and classified facility names received in accordance with a given procedure by referring to dictionaries.” Applicant respectfully submits that at least these features recited by independent claims 1, 10, and 12 are neither taught nor suggested by the Examiner’s applied prior art, whether taken singly or combined.

In contrast to the Applicant’s claimed invention, Hatano et al. teaches at page 6, paragraph [0043] to [0060] and claim 1, an information retrieving apparatus implemented to accept a related navigational information only in a specific order to start the search, so that the apparatus can better process the received information to provide the vehicle navigational path. Applicant respectfully submits that Hatano et al. discloses the search system to locate the facility name while sequentially reviewing the look-up word in the hierarchy structure. For example, a top down hierarchy system requesting a detailed answer from the user to retrieve the requested result, however, Hatano et al. does not teach that the information retrieving apparatus is designed to accept random navigational information to start the search.

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant’s claimed invention is implemented to accept user information provided in an arbitrary manner. As depicted in FIGs. 2A and 2B of

Hatano et al., there are five different hierarchy categories for assisting both the user and the information retrieving apparatus to provide the vehicle navigational path. Each hierarchy category provides specific questions to the users in order to further narrow the search. In contrast, Applicant's claimed invention allows a free hand for users in providing the random information. For example, instead of providing the area names or category names, the users could provide facility name to the facility retrieval apparatus, where the facility name initiate the retrieval process. On the other hand, facility names are provided only after the retrieval process has initiated in Hanato et al. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that "classified facility names received in accordance with a given procedure" as recited by independent claim 12 teaches that "the given procedure" includes processing the arbitrary inputted navigational information at the time when the user initiated the retrieval job.

MPEP §2131 instructs that "[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim." Thus, "[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). In addition, as instructed in MPEP §2143.03, "[t]o establish a prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 4980 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)."

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Hatano et al. does not teach or suggest at least "input means for receiving and taking in said area names, said classified names and said facility names," "identifying means for identifying, by referring said area name dictionary and said classified name dictionary, whether at least one name received is in an area name or a classified name," "extracting means for extracting, from said facility name dictionary, a facility

name satisfying narrow-down condition designated by said at least one name which is identified by said identifying means as said area name or said classified name,” “receiving and taking in said area names, said classified names and said facility names by input means,” “identifying in identifying means, by referring said area name dictionary and said classified name dictionary, whether at least one name received is in an area name or a classified name,” “extracting in extracting means from said facility name dictionary, a facility name satisfying narrow-down condition designated by said at least one name which is identified by said identifying means as said area names or said classified names,” as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 10.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that Halstead-Nussloch et al. does not teach or suggest at least the feature of “classified facility names received in accordance with a given procedure” as recited by the independent claim 12. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that Halstead-Nussloch et al. and well-known art, whether taken singly or combined fails to cure the deficiencies of Hatano et al. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) in view of Hatano et al. and rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn. In addition, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a), and rejections of claims 2-5, 7-9, 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn for their dependency on the allowable independent claims 1, 10, and 12.

New Claims

Applicant has added new claim 14. Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 14 is allowable for its dependency upon allowable independent claim 1, and further for the features that claim 14 recites.

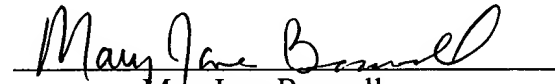
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all rejections, and the timely allowance of all pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.R.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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